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**THE STOLAR PARTNERSHIP
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September 29, 1998

Thomas J. Martin
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Sauget Area 1 Site

Dear Mr. Martin:

Our firm represents Ruan Transport Corporation in connection with the above referenced Superfund site and have been asked by Ruan to respond to the Special Notice of Liability received on September 16, 1998. As counsel for Ruan, please direct any further contact regarding the site to me at the following address and telephone numbers:

Dale E. Hermeling, Esq.
The Stolar Partnership
911 Washington Avenue, 7th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63101-1290
(314) 231-2800
(314) 436-8400 (Facsimile)
deh@stolarlaw.com

Consistent with our telephone conference yesterday, this letter confirms our willingness to participate in an initial settlement conference with respect to the site. Our expression of willingness to participate in negotiations, however, should not be construed as any admission of liability, but as an example of our good faith.

I understand that you are trying to schedule the initial conference for either October 15th or sometime during the week of October 19th through October 23rd. I will not be available on October 21st and thus would appreciate if the meeting is not scheduled on that date. In addition, we would prefer if the meeting were held in St. Louis, rather than Chicago.

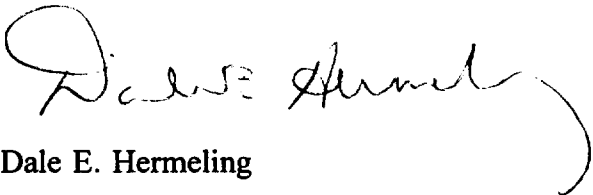
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Mr. Thomas J. Martin
September 29, 1998
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Please let me know as soon as possible when the meeting will be scheduled.

Very truly yours,

THE STOLAR PARTNERSHIP

By: 
Dale E. Hermeling

DEH:ale

cc: Kenneth L. Kessler, Esq.

RECEIVED

OCT 5 1998

U.S. EPA, Region 5
Office of Regional Counsel